Craig Dickenson

Coaching is not just a job it is a calling. Thirty two years making a difference and still going strong!!

Football • Calgary Stampeder Football Club • Whitefish, Montana, USA

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CAREER RECORDS

Special Teams Coordinator — Edmonton Elks
CFL | 2 seasons | 26W-10L (72.2%)

Assistant Special Teams Coach — Oakland Raiders
NFL | 1 seasons | 8W-8L (50.0%)

RB Coach — Montreal Alouettes
CFL | 1 seasons | 13W-5L (72.2%)

Special Teams Coordinator — Calgary Stampeders
CFL | 7 seasons | 66W-58L (53.2%)

Special Teams Coordinator — Winnipeg Blue Bombers
CFL | 1 seasons | 3W-15L (16.7%)

Assistant Coach — The University of Montana
Big Sky Conference NCAA | 5 seasons | 54W-14L (79.4%)

Assistant ST Coach — San Diego Chargers
NFL | 2 seasons | 6W-26L (18.8%)

Head Coach/STC — Saskatchewan Roughriders
CFL | 10 seasons | 74W-84L (46.8%)

Biography

Craig Dickenson is a veteran professional football coach whose 32-year career—26 of them in the professional ranks—has been defined by a relentless commitment to excellence, a player-centered coaching philosophy, and a transformational ability to build high-performance cultures. His approach is grounded in personal growth, toughness, and competition. Whether developing an elite veteran or guiding a young prospect, Coach Dickenson brings out the absolute best in people through an environment where attention to detail is taught, accountability is expected, competition is embraced, and toughness is demanded.

A former player at The University of Montana, he understands the athlete experience from the inside. That foundation, combined with more than three decades of coaching at the highest levels, has shaped a leader who excels at teaching the game, elevating performance, and demanding standards that push individuals beyond what they thought possible. His Master's Degree in Educational Leadership further enhances his coaching by giving him a deep understanding of how people learn, how groups function, and how leaders influence outcomes. He merges this academic grounding with real-world football insight, resulting in a powerful combination of clarity, discipline, and purposeful teaching. Everything Coach Dickenson does has purpose. And that purpose is to get the most out of every athlete and every team he coaches.
Throughout his career, Dickenson has won championships at every level of the sport—high school, NCAA, and professional—solidifying his reputation as a builder of winning teams and more importantly, winning

environments. His five-year tenure as the head coach of the Saskatchewan Roughriders produced a 34–34 record and a legacy marked by growth, resilience, and achievement. The pinnacle of that period came in 2019, when he led his team to a club record 13 wins, a Western Division Championship and was recognized as the CFL West Division Coach of the Year. That season showcased his unique ability to build a roster, unify a team, develop players, elevate performance, and create a culture based on toughness, grit, and team above self.

Championships and accolades tell only part of the story. What truly sets Coach Dickenson apart in the competitive world of professional coaching is his exceptional ability to work with people. He is a connector—someone who sees the full landscape of a program and strengthens it by bringing people together. Athletes trust him. Coaches respect him. Support staff appreciate his clarity and consistency. Boosters and organizational stakeholders feel valued and included. He has a rare talent for making individuals feel like essential contributors to something bigger than themselves, a skill that transforms not just performance, but the overall identity of a team.

Coach Dickenson's emotional intelligence is one of his greatest strengths. While he is known for his high football IQ, it is his ability to read people, understand motivations, and build genuine relationships that elevates his leadership. He creates environments where honesty is welcomed, effort is recognized, and trust fuels performance. Players respond to him because they know he believes in their amazing potential and will challenge them to reach it. Staff members rally behind him because he leads with conviction, unity, and purpose. His programs are disciplined, competitive, and demanding—but they are also grounded in respect, connection, and the belief that growth is a shared pursuit. You will be challenged when you are coached by Dickenson, but you will also be supported and loved. Coach Dickenson will be with you every step of the way and he will encourage you to develop toughness, courage and resiliency you never knew you had all in the process of being a part of something bigger than yourself...the team.

Coach Dickenson refuses to operate in the realm of average. He is about one thing...being great. Everything he does—from game preparation to player development to organizational communication—is driven by a standard of excellence that pushes teams to achieve beyond expectations. He understands that great teams are built on collective commitment, not individual talent. He instills that mindset through daily habits, cultural clarity, and a fierce dedication to doing things the right way...every time.

Over more than three decades, Coach Dickenson has built a legacy defined by bold leadership, strong relationships, and consistent success across every level of football. He stands out not only as a coach who wins, but as one who transforms organizations from within—creating teams that are tougher, more connected, and more prepared to compete at the highest level. Driven, intentional, and unwavering in his pursuit of excellence, Craig continues to shape athletes, programs, and cultures with a philosophy that elevates people and produces results. Coach is a winner. Period.

Statement

Coaching and teaching is my life's calling. It is what I was born to do. My mission is to teach and guide athletes to reach professional and personal excellence through clear instruction, purposeful training, and consistent support. I aim to build confident, resilient, tough, and accountable competitors who truly understand their craft and thrive in a high-performance environment rooted in trust, growth, and genuine care.

Achievement

CFL Record Net Punt (2025)

Coached Mark Vassett to a CFL All-Time Net Punt Record of 41.7 for the 2025 CFL Season. Helped our team rebound from a 5-12-1 record to a 11-7 record and a tie for 2nd place in the CFL West Division.

5 year Head Coach Saskatchewan Roughriders (CFL)
5 year successful experience as the Head Coach of the Saskatchewan Roughriders.
34-34 Career Record.
West Division Regular Season Champs 2019 13-5 Record.
Best Record in 30 years for the team.
West Division COY 2019

Head Coach of the 2019 West Division Regular Season Champion Saskatchewan Roughriders. (CFL)
13-5 Record. Best Record and first outright West Division Regular Season Title in 30 years.

Grey Cup Chamption
2014 Grey Cup Champion

Ranked #4 in Overall Special Teams Rankings (2010)
Finished the year as the #4 Ranked Special Teams Unit in the NFL. 2010 Season

Grey Cup Champion
2008-Calgary Stampeders.

#3 Ranking in Special Teams (San Diego Chargers) 2001 Season
Finished #3 in Special Teams Rankings in 2001.

NCAA Div 1-AA National Champions 1995
1995 National Champions (Montana Grizzlies)

Education

Master's Degree, Educational Leadership & Administration
The University of Montana
3.91 GPA Honors Graduate

Bachelor of Education, History and Political Science Major.
The University of Montana

Career

Assistant ST Coach at San Diego Chargers
Special Teams Assistant 2000-2001. Finished the 2001 Season as the #3 Ranked ST Units in the NFL (Gosselin Rankings).

Special Teams Coordinator at Edmonton Elks
Special Teams Coordinator (2014-1015)
Grey Cup Champion 2015

RB Coach at Montreal Alouettes

Special Teams Coordinator at Winnipeg Blue Bombers

Special Teams Coordinator at Calgary Stampeders
Special Teams Coordinator 2024-Current.

Head Coach/STC at Saskatchewan Roughriders
Special Teams Coordinator 2016-2018
Head Coach/Special Teams Coordinator 2019-2023.
West Division Regular Season Champs 2019.
West Division Coach of the Year 2019.
Career Record 34-34.

Assistant Special Teams Coach at Oakland Raiders
Assistant Coach on the 8-8 Oakland Raider Team (2010). Finished the year #4 Ranked ST Unit in the NFL (Gosselin Rankings).
3 KOR TD's on the season.

Assistant Coach at The University of Montana
Special Teams Assistant Coach.

Feature

Coach Dickenson Named West Division Coach of the Year
COACH DICKENSON NAMED WEST DIVISION COACH OF THE YEAR

In his first year as the Roughriders Head Coach, Dickenson led the team to a first-place finish in the west division and a 13-5 record – the third best record in the Club's 109-year year history.

Special Teams Coordinator Calgary Stampeders 2025
I was on a staff that helped turn around a non-playoff 5-12-1 team into a playoff team. Finished the year 11-7 and led the CFL in Net Punt. Our punter established a new CFL record for Net Punt in a season at 41.7 yards per punt.

West Semi Final 2021 vs. Calgary
Coach Dickenson's Riders won the West Semi-Final vs. the Calgary Stampeders 2021.
This game was even more meaningful because it was the 1st coaching match-up in the CFL playoffs featuring brothers, My brother Dave was the Head Coach of the Calgary Stampeders and I was the Head Coach of the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

PRINCIPLES

• I am motivated by the the pursuit of excellence and the opportunity to be great.

• I value and appreciate the relationships and mentorships that I am able to form and cultivate on this exciting and meaningful journey.

• I strive to be the best resource, motivator and support system for the athletes and coaches I work with. The pursuit of greatness and being elite in everything we do is what motivates me every season and each and every day.

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PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

Mario Alford
Saskatchewan Roughriders | Football
Coached and developed the CFL's Most Outstanding Special Teams Player: 2022
League leader in return touchdowns: 2022
Fifth player in league history to return for the cycle (a touchdown from a punt return, kickoff return and missed field goal return) in a season (2022)
Broke the Roughriders' record for return touchdowns in a season (4)
West Division All-Star: 2023
Tied Roughriders' records for punt-return touchdowns in a game (two) and a season (three).

Mark Vassett

Calgary Stampeders | Football

Mark Vassett

Calgary Stampeders | Football

Craig Dickenson coached Vassett to ALL-CFL Honors in his rookie season of 2025. Mark set a team and CFL record for Net punting Average of 41.7 for the season. Mark also set the team record for gross punt average in a season averaging 50.0 yards per punt.

ATHLETIC CAREER

Kicker/Punter/WR — Montana Grizzlies

Big Sky (NCAA) | Football | 1991 - 1993

Played 3 years at the University of Montana as a kicker, punter and WR.

WR/P/K — Concordia College

MIAC | Football (Men) | 1990 - 1991

Played one year at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. WR/P/K.

Player — CM Russell

Montana High School Football | Football (Men) | 1987 - 1989

Lettered 3 years at CM Russell High School. 2nd Team All-State 1989. State Champions 1989 12-0 Record. Played WR/P/K.

COACHING CAREER

Special Teams Coordinator — Calgary Stampeders

CFL | Football | 2024

Special Teams Coordinator 2024-Current.

Head Coach/STC — Saskatchewan Roughriders

CFL | Football | 2019 - 2023

Special Teams Coordinator 2016-2018
Head Coach/Special Teams Coordinator 2019-2023.
West Division Regular Season Champs 2019.
West Division Coach of the Year 2019.
Career Record 34-34.

Special Teams Coordinator — Edmonton Elks

CFL | Football | 2014 - 2015

Special Teams Coordinator (2014-1015)
Grey Cup Champion 2015

Special Teams Coordinator — Winnipeg Blue Bombers

CFL | Football | 2013 - 2014

Special Teams Coordinator — Saskatchewan Roughriders

CFL | Football | 2011 - 2012

STC Saskatchewan Roughriders 2011-2012

Assistant Special Teams Coach — Oakland Raiders

NFL | Football | 2010 - 2011

Assistant Coach on the 8-8 Oakland Raider Team (2010). Finished the year #4 Ranked ST Unit in the NFL (Gosselin Rankings).
3 KOR TD's on the season.

WR, STC — Calgary Stampeders

CFL | Football | 2004 - 2009
WR Coach 2004.
STC 2005-2009
Grey Cup Champion 2008

RB Coach — Montreal Alouettes
CFL | Football | 2003 - 2004

WR Coach — Calgary Stampeders
CFL | Football | 2002 - 2003
WR Coach, Calgary Stampeders. CFL

Assistant ST Coach — San Diego Chargers
NFL | Football | 2000 - 2001
Special Teams Assistant 2000-2001. Finished the 2001 Season as the #3 Ranked ST Units in the NFL (Gosselin Rankings).

RB Coach — Utah State University
NCAA, Big West | Football | 1999 - 2000
RB Coach Utah State University

Assistant Coach — The University of Montana
Big Sky Conference NCAA | Football | 1994 - 1998
Special Teams Assistant Coach.

ENDORSEMENTS

— Micah Teitz

— Jimmy Raye III

— Markus Howell

— Aaron Crawford

— Kent Maugeri

— Mark Vassett

— Mark Vassett

— Godfrey

— Jonathan Himebauch

— Mike Scheper

— Daryl Chambers

— Tevin Jones

— Mark Vassett

— Nick Novak

— Nick Novak

— Mark Vassett